

Borough of Congleton.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending December 31st, 1919.

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BOROUGH OF CONGLETON.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health,

For the Year ending 31st December, 1919.

To the Mayor and Members of the Town Council.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

1919 was a year of the greatest importance from a public health point of view. In the early part of the year we had a very severe epidemic of Influenza, causing a considerable number of deaths; during the year a number of diseases not previously notifiable were made so; and during a large portion of the year your attention was occupied with a housing scheme, which will have a great influence on the health and well-being of your fellow-townsmen.

This report in many details differs from those of previous years, as I have closely followed the Memorandum recently issued by the Ministry of Health on this subject.

Natural and Social conditions of the Borough.

Congleton is not only an industrial centre, but is becoming more and more a residential town for people carrying on business in the Potteries. The chief occupations of the inhabitants are Silk Spinning, Velvet Cutting, Towel Weaving, Tobacco Manufacturing, and the manufacture of Shirts, Skirts, Blouses, Hosiery, and Smallware. None of these occupations can be considered very unhealthy. There is a greater tendency to Bronchitis among Silk Dressers than among the general population of the town, though I have not been able to ascertain that their longevity is seriously affected as a rule. The trade of the town is brisk at present, all the factories that are in a fit state to be used being occupied, and

there is a steady demand for factories amongst persons desirous of commencing business in this town. The bulk of the factories require chiefly female labour, many of the men working outside the town at Collieries and Iron Works, and what is chiefly required in this town is the introduction of new industries employing a large proportion of male labour.

The main portion of the town is very low lying compared with the surrounding country, the lowest lying portion of the town being only 260 feet above sea level, while it is surrounded by hills, the highest part of the borough, Congleton Edge, being 700 feet above sea level. The borough chiefly consists of agricultural land, about the centre of which the urban part is situated, mainly on the south bank of the River Dane. The greater part of the borough has a sandy subsoil overlying marl, but Mossley, the chief residential district, has a clay soil.

Rainfall in 1919	31.86 inches.
Acreage of Borough	2,572 acres.
Population at 1911 Census	11,310
Estimated population 1919	11,790

I have been unable to obtain a full account of the poor law relief in 1919, in time for this report. There is a small Cottage Hospital, other patients who require hospital treatment going to Stoke-on-Trent or Manchester.

Vital Statistics

Births 191	Males 104	Females 87
1919 Birth Rate 15.5	1918 Birth Rate 16.9	
1919 Birth Rate for England and Wales 18.5.		
Illegitimate births 11. Illegitimate birth rate 5.7 per cent of births.		
Deaths 157	Males 78	Females 79
1919 Death Rate 13.2	1918 Death Rate 19.2	
1919 Death Rate for England and Wales 13.8.		

Deaths of Infants under one year of age 25

1919 Infantile Mortality Rate 130.

1918 Infantile Mortality Rate 76 per 1,000 births

1919 Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales 89.

Number of deaths from Zymotic Diseases 4.

1919 Zymotic death rate .3 1918 Zymotic death rate .5.

Number of deaths from Tuberculosis 12.

1919 Tuberculosis Rate 1.0 1918 Tuberculosis Rate 1.1.

Number of Marriages in 1919 125.

The Registrar General gives a population of 12,300 for calculating the Birth Rate and 11,808 for calculating the Death Rate.

The causes of death were :—

Measles	1
Influenza	20
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	11
Tuberculous Meningitis	1
Cancer	23
Rheumatic Fever	1
Meningitis	1
Organic Heart Disease	7
Bronchitis	17
Pneumonia (all forms)	8
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	3
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1
Nephritis & Bright's disease	3
Congenital debility, etc.	12
Suicide	1
Other defined diseases	47

The causes of death of children under 1 year of age were :—

Measles	1
Meningitis	1

Bronchitis	2
Pneumonia	1
Diarrhœa, etc.	3
Congenital debility, etc.	12
Other defined diseases	5

None of the children who died under 1 year of age were illegitimate. There were 12 Coroner's Inquests held in the borough during the year.

Sanitary circumstances of the District.

WATER.—The water supply is obtained from the quicksands; the supply is ample and is constant. There is no possibility of contamination; it is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action, and the Analyst's reports have invariably been satisfactory.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The River Dane is very slightly polluted by a stream containing the effluent treated before discharge from several works outside the borough, where considerable amounts of chemicals are used in the manufacturing processes, slightly also by sewage from some of the outlying parts of the district, and by the discharge of the water closets of two Congleton factories. There is no pollution of rivers or streams from the public sewage works. Any action required is taken by the Rivers Pollution Committee of the County Council.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—95% of the sewage is domestic and only about 5% trade. The sewerage of the town is satisfactory, though some of the outlying parts of the borough are not sewered. The Sewage Disposal Works are sufficient at present, but if any new trades are started or outlying districts—*e.g.*, Dane-in-Shaw, West Heath, The Marsh, and parts of Mossley, are connected up, these works would have to be enlarged. Certain portions of the borough—*e.g.*, Congleton Edge and isolated farms can never be sewered. The effluent from the Sewage Disposal Works is invariably found satisfactory on analysis.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—Water Closets 981, Pail Closets 2617, Privy Middens 187.

CONVERSIONS OF CLOSETS.

Year	Pail Closets to Water Closets	Privy Middens to Pail Closets
1919	3	19
1918	2	17
1917	3	50
1916	10	62

SCAVENGING.—House refuse is collected weekly, being removed to tips in outlying parts of the borough. Pail-closets are emptied weekly; there are no earth-closets in the district. There are only 4 cesspools, these and the privy-middens being emptied on notice being given, and the latter after being emptied are deodorized with Sanitas. There are 119 dry ashpits, which are emptied on notice being given. During the past 6 years the following ashpits have been abolished and replaced by movable receptacles:—

1914	37	We have no record of the number of covered receptacles provided, but about 50% of them are galvanized iron Ash-tins with proper lids and handles.
1915	42	
1916	72	
1917	22	
1918	21	
1919	16	

SANITARY INSPECTOR OF DISTRICT.—This will be found in detail in Table B at the end of this report. The Sanitary Inspector has made 2,623 inspections, served 16 Statutory and 316 informal notices, 318 of which have been complied with, and 14 remain in hand.

Premises and occupations which can be controlled by Byelaws or Regulations.—There are only 3 premises in the borough coming under the head of offensive trades, all three are Tripe Boilers and the premises are in good condition except that the floor of the boiling-room in one case needs repairing. The Sanitary Inspector is in communication with the owner about this defect.

There are no houses let in lodgings in the borough. The Chief Constable reports that there are 4 Registered Common Lodging Houses in the borough, with a total accommodation for 84 lodgers nightly, these have been visited daily and found to be properly conducted. During the year 12,454 persons have been lodged, being an increase of 2,698 compared with 1918.

The Sanitary Inspector reports that all the Common Lodging Houses are old and cannot be considered satisfactory; though there are no defects definitely dangerous to health, he has served 5 notices during the year for sanitary defects, which have been complied with.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, & MILKSHOPS.—There are 65 cowsheds, 48 dairies, and 8 milkshops on the register; several of the premises registered as cowshed and dairies are entirely used in connection with the production of cheese & butter. The Sanitary Inspector has visited a large proportion of these premises, but he was only demobilised in March, 1919, and commenced duty after a short holiday. Most of this class of premises were in a fairly satisfactory condition, though of an old type.

PIGGERIES.—Were generally in a satisfactory condition.

Other Sanitary Conditions requiring Notice.

(1) **FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS.**—Were generally in a satisfactory condition.

(2) Twemlow Street and Princess Street require making up. This matter has been brought before you before, and I consider it to be of the greatest importance.

(3) **RAG FLOCK ACT.**—The Sanitary Inspector made enquiries at 8 premises, where he thought it likely that Rag Flock might be dealt in, but found that only one business house deals regularly in it; this is bought new from the manufacturers, purchased with a warranty. The flock was quite clean on each of the Sanitary Inspector's visit. One other business house stated that they had

it occasionally, and 3 Marine store dealers get it from time to time with other goods, and as it is of no use to them, they burn it. Although the Sanitary Inspector has several times visited all these premises he has never found rag flock at any except the first named place of business.

SCHOOLS.—The drainage of all the schools is connected to the public sewer, and the water is from the Congleton town supply.

St. James' Church of England Mixed School,
 St. James' Church of England Infants' School,
 St. Peter's Church of England Schools,
 Mossley Church of England School, and
 St. Mary's Roman Catholic School,

have all in recent years been improved and brought up-to-date, so that in my opinion they may be considered from a public health point of view, good average schools for the numbers attending them. The latrines are modern, consisting of water closets and urinals.

St. Stephen's Church of England Infants' School, is a comparatively modern building. There are 5 water closets on the trough system, in a small yard, there being no play ground to this school. This school may be considered fairly satisfactory.

Wagg Street Wesleyan Mixed & Infant Schools.—The water closets require more frequent and satisfactory flushing, and general attention to cleanliness. The lighting and ventilation of the school requires to be improved.

Brook Street Wesleyan School.—The water closets are in small yards, and are satisfactory, though not modern. There is no play-ground. The ground-floor classrooms are badly lighted and the lavatory accommodation is deficient.

St. Stephen's Church of England Mixed School is in a very poor sanitary condition. It is very badly lighted, the ventilation is poor, heating is defective; there is no play-ground. The yards are very small and paved with cobble stones. The water closets,

though of an old type, are not insanitary; the sewage drains are in good order and connected to the public sewer. The floors of all the rooms are in bad condition, the boards not being closely jointed. There are 2 gratings in the floors, and there is a coke cellar and a coal cellar entered through trap doors in the floor, and the lavatory accommodation is deficient.

All the schools were closed from 24th February to 24th March, 1919, on account of the Influenza epidemic. Brook Street Wesleyan School was closed from 31st March to 14th April, 1919, owing to the illness of the Head Master and 2 teachers; and St. James' Infant School was closed from 31st July to 8th August, 1919, owing to the prevalence of chicken pox.

I am also the School Medical Officer for the Borough.

Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—Practically all the milk sold is produced in the borough or the immediate outskirts. It has been wholesome except in two instances which are mentioned in a subsequent section, and the supply has been quite adequate. No action has been needed during the year with regard to tuberculous milk.

Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912 and 1917—No action has been taken, but the Chief Constable has now been appointed Inspector under these Regulations, and they will be carefully administered in future.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order 1918—Administered by County Council.

(b) OTHER FOODS.—(I) The Veterinary Inspector, Mr. Laithwood, who acted up to Nov., 1919, reports that the slaughter-houses were always found to be in a satisfactory condition and that two carcasses of beef were condemned as totally unfit for human consumption, owing to generalized Tuberculosis, and the same were destroyed.

(II) The Inspector of Nuisances reports that:—

(1) The Meat Inspection in the shops is carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances, who is a certified Meat Inspector, as far as possible during the course of his numerous duties. He also visits the slaughterhouses occasionally. During the past year 1 ton 14 cwts. 80 lbs. of meat, and 13 lbs. of Fish have been destroyed by the Inspector of Nuisances. This has all been surrendered voluntarily by the Butchers and Fishmongers. There are 11 private slaughterhouses, which are kept in fairly good condition; they are visited once a month by the Veterinary Surgeon, and occasionally by the Inspector of Nuisances. There is no public abattoir, and therefore no constant system of inspection at slaughtering-time. In 1912 there were 14 slaughterhouses, but three of these have now ceased to be used as such.

(2) There are 18 bakehouses in the borough; these are all overground, are kept in fairly good sanitary condition, and regularly lime-washed. They are usually visited at least twice a year by the Inspector of Nuisances.

(3) Food Inspection is carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances in the course of his general duties.

(c) SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.—The Chief Constable reports that during the year 42 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst under the above Acts, as follows:—22 milk, 3 baking powder, 2 common beer, 2 coffee, 1 margarine, 1 lard, 1 ground rice, 1 ground ginger, 1 pepper, 1 cream of tartar, 1 self-raising flour, 1 malt vinegar, 1 gentian powder, and 4 other drugs. 2 samples of milk were found to be adulterated, one contained 5.8 per cent. and the other 15.2 per cent. of added water. Proceedings were taken, the vendors were fined 30/- and £5 respectively.

Prevalence of, and control over Infectious Diseases.

During 1919, 125 cases were notified under the Infectious Disease Notification Regulations:—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Tuberculous Meningitis	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	6
Measles	4
Scarlet Fever	6
Diphtheria	12
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	6
Malaria	7
Dysentery	1
Influenzal Pneumonia	36
Primary Pneumonia	21
Erysipelas	5
Puerperal Fever	3

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied by the Council to any medical practitioner for patients within the borough, on application being made to me. On several occasions this year Antitoxin has been supplied, but in cases which have been immediately sent to the Fever Hospital on notification, no application for Antitoxin has been received.

Bacteriological examinations are made at the Public Health Laboratory, University of Manchester, of specimens from patients suspected of suffering from Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, and Cerebro Spinal Meningitis; since 14th July, 1919, Sputum from suspected cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis has been examined at the County Laboratory, Chester.

Suspected disease.	Number of Specimens examined.	Positive Results.
Diphtheria	12	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	15	2

I do not think that bacteriological aids to diagnosis are as fully utilised in this district as they should be.

Dysentery.—One case was notified, which however had not been contracted in this district. Instructions were given with regard to destroying flies and protecting food, special precautions were taken with regard to the excreta. The case was reported to the Secretary

to the local Government Board and to the County Medical Officer of Health, and the Sanitary Inspector took appropriate steps to have certain sanitary defects remedied. The man died about 3 weeks after notification, and the house was thoroughly disinfected.

Malaria.—7 cases were notified. I found on visiting these cases that they had all been contracted on Military service abroad, and that each patient was receiving quinine from his medical attendant.

Tuberculosis.—The notification of this disease is carried out much less promptly than is desirable, it is possible that this may be partly due to patients only consulting their doctor during the later stages of the disease, but in one case which I considered should have been notified earlier, I reported the matter to the Sanitary Committee, who instructed the Town Clerk to write to each medical practitioner in the borough, urging the necessity of prompt notification, and since then an improvement has been noticeable.

Scarlet Fever.—6 cases were reported; they were of a very mild type; 5 were treated at the Fever Hospital, and the remaining case was fairly well isolated at home, but would not have been so but for the frequent visits and warnings of the Sanitary Inspector and myself. Three of the cases that were sent to hospital lived in adjoining houses, the other 3 cases occurred at different periods in other quarters of the town, and the primary sources of infection could not be discovered.

Diphtheria.—Of the 12 cases notified, 9 were removed to the Fever Hospital, the other 3 being very satisfactorily isolated at home. Sanitary defects were found at 2 of the houses, 4 of the children were directly in contact with each other at the same school, which was not in a satisfactory condition, though nothing was found likely to cause Diphtheria.

Erysipelas.—In these cases the Sanitary Inspector made a thorough inspection of the sanitary condition of the houses and

supplied disinfectants, and I called and gave advice likely to prevent any other person from becoming infected.

Pneumonia.—These cases had disinfectants supplied, and I advised the relatives with regard to preventing the infection of other persons.

In all cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Typhoid, Small pox, and Cerebro Spinal Meningitis, thorough disinfection of the house, bedding, and infected clothing is carried out, either after the recovery of the patient or after removal to the Isolation Hospital. The bedding and clothing are removed to the hospital for disinfection. Isolation has been satisfactory in cases remaining at home, and this has been largely due to frequent visits from Sanitary officials. There have been no return cases of Scarlet Fever nor Diphtheria during the year, and no carrier cases have been recognised. No cases fortunately of Small-pox, Typhoid, nor Cerebro-Spinal Fever occurred during 1919. Contacts are followed up as far as possible, and the fullest use is made of school intimations. I have found them of special value in regard to Measles.

Small-pox.—No cases have occurred, and I have not required to make any Vaccinations under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention Regulations, 1917).

Inhabitants of this borough have now largely got over any objection to their relatives going to the Fever Hospital, so that now a very large proportion of the Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and Typhoid cases are treated there.

Tetanus.—A case occurred in a neighbouring district, and was removed to, and died in, Congleton Cottage Hospital. Curiously enough it occurred the day following the receipt of an intimation from the Ministry of Health that Antitetanic serum was being supplied to County Medical Officers, but the supplies had not been sent out at that time. At the Inquest a verdict was returned of "Paralysis of the vagus nerve of the heart brought on by lockjaw caused by cutting a corn."

Influenza.—This disease became again epidemic in the latter half of February, but prior to this there were a few cases. The epidemic continued more or less for about $2\frac{1}{2}$ months, though even after this cases cropped up from time to time.

The figures given in this section will not agree altogether with those in the earlier portion of the report, as the latter are the corrected figures, deducting non-residents of the town who died during a temporary stay here, and adding those inhabitants of the town who died while temporarily in another locality; but I think in dealing with such an epidemic it is more important to put before you the deaths actually occurring in the town. The number of deaths occurring ascribed to Influenza during, 1919, I give under each week :—

Week ending 4th January	1 death
„ „ 18th January	1 death
„ „ 1st February	1 death
„ „ 22nd February	1 death
„ „ 1st March	2 deaths
„ „ 8th March	2 deaths
„ „ 15th March	4 deaths
„ „ 22nd March	2 deaths
„ „ 29th March	1 death
„ „ 5th April	1 death
„ „ 12th April	1 death
„ „ 3rd May	1 death
„ „ 31st May	1 death
„ „ 1st December	1 death

11 of the deaths were of males and 9 were of females.

Table of age and sex distribution.

	Under 10 years of age	10-20 years of age	20-30 years of age	30-40 years of age	40-50 years of age	50-60 years of age	Over 60 years of age
Male	1	1	3	1	1	1	3
Female	2		1		1	1	4

It will be noticed that the greatest number of victims were in the last age period.

A large number of cases had Pneumonia as a complication.

The Elementary Schools were closed from 24th February to 24th March ; the Sunday Schools were kept closed during the same period, and children of school age were not admitted to the Picture Palace.

Posters were exhibited in shop windows and literature was distributed dealing with Influenza.

You provided 2 nurses for visiting patients unable to provide or obtain nurses for themselves ; they did very good work, paying 602 visits to 114 patients. I now hold a stock of Influenza Vaccine, which can be obtained by any medical practitioner, requiring it for treatment or prophylaxis.

The West Heath Sanatorium, which is the Isolation Hospital for this Borough, and for 4 Urban Districts, and 1 Rural District, is within the borough boundaries, and accommodates cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and Typhoid Fever, and will take in cases of Trench Fever if there is room for them.

There is also a Small-pox Hospital at Arclid, in Congleton Rural District, available for borough cases.

I do not consider that it is practicable to provide for Influenza cases, but provision for hospital accommodation of cases of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis and Dysentery is in my opinion necessary.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

I think it is very unfortunate that Maternity and Child Welfare Schemes, and also the supervision of midwives, are not under the Borough Council, as decentralization so often leads to a greature measure of efficiency.

Puerperal Fever.—Three cases of Puerperal Fever were notified, but all must have been of a very mild type, as no deaths occurred. In one case the midwife had herself stitched the perineum and she was later removed from the roll of midwives. In each case disinfectants were supplied, and the dress and bag of the midwife thoroughly disinfected

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—6 cases were notified. I visited the house in each case, and advised the parent or some relative with regard to spread of infection, and the midwife was also seen and advised with regard to carrying infection. In only one case so far as I could ascertain was there any permanent injury to the sight; this child had both eyes badly affected, and died from Acute Nephritis and Prematurity at birth. In every case a medical man was early in attendance.

Measles.—4 cases occurred during the year; one notified on 2nd January, probably contracted the disease from one of the children affected during the 1918 epidemic, which practically finished at the end of 1918. Another case contracted the disease in Warwickshire but developed no symptoms until her arrival in Congleton on a visit; the other 2 cases probably got infected in a neighbouring town where they had been, where there were a number of cases. All these cases were of a mild type, but one child notified in December, 1918, died in January, 1919, from this disease. Both I and the Sanitary Inspector call at every house where a case of Measles occurs, give advice, endeavour to isolate, supply disinfectants, and exclude the other children from school and Sunday School.

Whooping Cough.—A considerable number of cases occurred in the second and third quarters of the year; they were of a mild

type and no deaths were ascribed to this disease. Other members of the family were excluded if in the Infant departments or if they had not had Whooping Cough.

Mumps.—A number of cases occurred in the second quarter.

Chicken-pox.—A good number of cases of Chicken-pox occurred in the third quarter, and children in the families where Mumps or Chicken-pox occurred were excluded from School, if in the Infant department, or if they had not had these diseases.

Epidemic Diarrhoea.—There were very few cases of this class of disease in 1919; one child was certified in January as dying from Acute Gastritis, one in August, 1919, from Infective Enteritis, and one in December, 1919, from Gastro-Enteritis, and I rarely hear of cases of this type until I see the deaths in the Registrar's Return of Deaths, unless there is an epidemic. Posters are exhibited each year dealing with protection of milk from flies.

I must say that the mortality from Measles has been less, and I think the spread of infection has been lessened since this disease became notifiable, and I trust that notification will continue to be compulsory in the borough.

Sanitary Administration.

1. Staff.—Medical Officer of Health (part time), superintends and directs the public health work in the borough, reports annually and quarterly to, and as occasion arises, to the Council.

One whole time Sanitary Inspector, who also carries out duties under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, Factory and Workshops Act, Rag Flock Act, Housing of the Working Classes Acts, Canal Boats Acts, and Food and Meat inspection.

A part time Veterinary Inspector, inspects the slaughterhouses, and meat in the slaughterhouses.

The Chief Constable is also Inspector of Lodging Houses, and under the Food and Drugs Acts, and has recently been appointed under the Milk and Cream Regulations.

The Borough Surveyor is also Sewerage and Water Engineer.

The Borough Analyst examines samples of Sewage, Water, and samples under the Food and Drugs Acts.

2. Hospital accommodation has been dealt with under "Prevalence of and control over Infectious Diseases"; it has been sufficient for the diseases provided for, except in the event of very extensive Scarlet Fever epidemics, this however, I imagine, is a difficulty occasionally met with in every locality; the administration is under the Congleton and District Joint Hospital Board which issues a report annually.

3. Local Acts, Special Local Orders, or general Adoptive Acts in force in the District and their administration:—

Congleton Inclosure Act, 1795.

Borough of Congleton (West Road) Housing Confirmation Order, 1920.

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.

Congleton Gas and Improvement Act, 1866.

Parts II, III, and Section 95, comprised in Part X of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (adopted 20th Jan., 1914)

Public Health Act Amendments Act, 1890 (adopted 4th Feb., 1891.)

Congleton and District Joint Hospital Order, 1904

Congleton Order of 1904, being a provisional order for altering the Congleton Gas and Improvement Act, 1866.

Public Health (Measles and German Measles) Temporary Regulations, 1919.

Congleton Inclosure Act Amendment Act, 1849.

Congleton Gas (Temporary Increase of Charges) Order 1919.

The administration of the above named Acts and Orders is satisfactory.

4. Arrangements for and results of bacteriological examinations have been dealt with under the Section on 'Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.' One bacteriological examination of water from a well was made by Professor Delepine, Manchester University. The water was found to be contaminated, the well was closed, and the three houses affected received a supply of the town's water. The chemical examinations of water and sewage, and under the Food and Drugs Acts are carried out by Mr. Melling, the Borough Analyst.

Housing.

(I) General housing conditions in the district :—

1. Total number of houses 2794
 Number of houses for the working classes 2534
 New houses for the working classes erected during the year 0
2. Population (estimated) 11790
 Changes in population in 1919 — Probably a small increase
 Anticipated future changes in population — Anticipated small steady increase if house accommodation can be found.
3. (a) Extent of shortage of houses 250
 (b) Measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage—
 250 applied for under survey, have been granted, and building will shortly commence.

(II) Overcrowding :—

1. Extent.—40 houses on the basis of 2 per room, but on a public health basis would be much greater, owing to smallness of rooms.
2. Causes.—Lack of houses.
3. Measures taken or contemplated to deal with overcrowding—
 Erection of new houses of a better type.
4. Principal cases of overcrowding dealt with during the year and action taken—None, it is impossible to take any action until some alternative accommodation can be offered, as every working class house in the town is occupied.

(III) Fitness of houses :—

1. (a) General standard of housing in the district—A moderate standard exists; very few of the houses are modern, there are in many of them defects—*e.g.*, ground dampness, windows not opening sufficiently, and cobbled yards, and in very few of them is there a water carriage system.

(b) General character of defects found to exist in unfit houses—Deficient lighting and ventilation, deficient yard space and bad yard paving, defective pointing and spouting, ground damp, insufficient cubic space in rooms, deficient bedroom accommodation, defective closet accommodation, houses built in courts and yards, back-to-back houses, and obstructive houses.
2. Action as regards unfit houses under :—

(a) The Public Health Acts.—2 formal and 58 informal notices for defects were served, which were remedied.

(b) The Housing Acts.—390 houses inspected; 20 were found unfit for habitation, excluding slum areas and obstructive buildings, which will be closed as soon as other houses are available.
3. Difficulties in remedying unfitness, special measures taken, and any suggestions in the matter.—No available houses for occupiers, to take place of houses if demolished, or to house them whilst renovation is being carried out; certain houses are so crowded together as to make renovation impossible, demolition being only possible course. In case of repairable houses, there is shortage of skilled labour and materials.
4. Conditions so far as they affect housing, as regards water supply closet accommodation, and refuse disposal, together with measures taken during the year in these matters.—Water supply

is sufficient for present conservancy system, but not for any large extension of water-carriage system ; the Borough Surveyor is specially investigating this matter at present. There is no difficulty about removing refuse to tips but there is no Refuse Destructor. No special measures taken during the year.

(IV) Unhealthy areas:—

1. Action taken as regards areas represented before the beginning of the year under Part I or Part II of the Housing Act, 1890.—A few houses were demolished previous to the war, and several closed without being demolished.
2. Particulars of, and action taken as regards, areas represented during the year.—54 houses in slum or unhealthy areas were represented to the Town Council, also 8 obstructive buildings, and 20 unfit houses coming under neither of these headings, which last are already mentioned under Section III (2) (b) Housing. The Council decided that these houses should be closed as soon as others could be erected.
3. Information as to complaints made during the year that areas were unhealthy and action taken.—No complaints made except representation by Sanitary Inspector and myself. See previous sub-section (IV) 2.

(V) Byelaws relating to houses, houses let in lodgings, and to tents, vans, sheds, etc. :—

1. As to working of existing byelaws.—The only byelaws in force in regard to the above, are New Streets and Buildings Byelaws, Nuisance Byelaws, and Common Lodging House Byelaws, which were framed in 1889.
2. As to need for new byelaws or revision of existing byelaws.—Require bringing up-to-date, New Buildings Byelaws and Byelaws for drainage of existing buildings were under consideration by the Council in 1914, but fell through owing to the war.

(VI) General and Miscellaneous.—None.

(VII) Appendices.—Statistics for the 12 months ended 31st December, 1919 :—

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which complaints were made, that they are unfit for human habitation.

(a) By householders—None.

(b) In cases of rural parishes, etc.—Not applicable.

2. Action under section 17 of the Housing Act of 1909.

(a) Number of dwelling houses inspected under, and for the purpose of the section—390.

(b) Number of dwelling houses which were considered unfit for human habitation—82.

(c) Number of dwelling houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders—11.

3. Action under section 28 of the Housing Act, 1919—None.

4. Closing Orders :—

(a) Number of representations to the local authority with a view to the making of closing orders—82.

(b) Number of closing orders—None, until new houses are erected.

(c) Number of dwelling houses in regard to which closing orders were determined on the house being made fit for human habitation—None.

5. Demolition Orders—None.

6. Number of dwelling houses demolished voluntarily—None.

7. Obstructive Buildings :—

(a) Number of representations made—8.

(b) Number of buildings demolished—None, pending erection of new houses.

(c) Number of representations still under consideration—None.

8. Staff engaged in housing work and duties of each officer :—

Medical Officer (part time)—Inspecting and making representation to Council, and continuous survey of district.

Sanitary Inspector—Inspecting, carrying out continuous survey of district.

Architect—Preparing plans, attending Housing Meetings, dealing with tenders for building, and supervising building, etc.

Architect's Assistant—Drawing plans, etc.

Quantity Surveyor—Making out bills of quantities.

Architect's Second Assistant—Preparing plans, etc.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. B. DAVIDSON,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.,

Member Royal Sanitary Institute.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

General Order of Local Government Board (Medical Officer of Health and Inspectors of Nuisances December 13th, 1910.)

BOROUGH OF CONGLETON.

Tabular Statement of Inspector of Nuisances for the Year ended December 31st, 1919.

W. J. EVERSETT, Sanitary Inspector.

Number and Nature of Inspections Made.	Number	No. of Notices served		Result of Service of Notices			
		Statut'y	Informal	Notice com- plied with	Remaining in hand	Prosecu- tions	
						Inst- it'd	Pen- ding
Dwelling Houses (general inspections) ..	419	2	58	60			
Back-to-back Houses ..	8						
Tents, Vans, Sheds &c. ..	69						
Courts, Yards, Passages ..	66		5	4	1		
Privy-Middens, Earth or Pail Closets.. ..	59		29	29			
Cesspools	8						
House Drainage	428		98	92	6		
Ditches, Watercourses, &c. ..	6	5					
Offensive Accumulations ..	392	7	97	104			
The Keeping of Animals (P.H.A., 1875, S 91 (3) ..	12	1	5	5	1		
Offensive Trades	16						
Slaughterhouses (Private) ..	176						
Other places where food is produced or sold ..	195						
Piggeries	45						
Dairies	36		2	2			
Cowsheds	41		2	1	1		
Milkshops	8						
Factories	77		3	3			
Workshops	59		2	2			
Outworkers' Premises	18						
Bakehouses (Overground) ..	24		6	6			
Common Lodging Houses ..	212		5	5			
Infectious Disease Inquiries and Revisits	158	1	2	3			
Miscellaneous	91		2	2			
Totals	2523	16	316	318	14		

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Tabular Summary of Sanitary Work during 1919.

Name of District—Congleton Borough.

I. *Water Supply.*

- 1.—Have any extensions been carried out during 1919?—No.
- 2.—Number of Samples analysed during 1919—chemically—12
bacteriologically—None
- 3.—Are any, and if so what, parts of your district still without a proper supply of water?—Yes. Some Outside districts.

II. *Sewerage and Sewage Disposal*

- 1.—Specify any new works of sewerage carried out during 1919—None.
- 2.—Are any, and if so what, parts of your district still without a proper system of sewers?—Outlying Districts. Dane-in-Shaw, Astbury Marsh
- 3.—Have there been any complaints to your knowledge during 1919 as to the disposal works?—One, which on investigation did not appear to be well founded.
- 4.—Have any alterations or extensions taken place to your knowledge in the disposal works during 1919?—No.

III. *Housing.*

- 1.—Number of new houses built during 1919—None.
- 2.—Number of dwelling-houses inspected under s. 17 Act of 1909—390
- 3.—Number of such houses considered unfit for habitation—82
- 4.—Number of representations made to Local Authority—82
- 5.—Number of closing orders made by Local Authority—None
- 6.—Number of houses where defects remedied without closing orders being made—None
- 7.—Number of houses where defects remedied after closing orders made—None

- 8.—Estimated or ascertained number of houses within limits of rent in s. 14 of Act of 1909—2534.
- 9.—Number of such houses in respect of which notice was served during 1919—18
- 10.—Number of such houses closed after notice—None
- 11.—Number of such houses where Local Authority has executed necessary repairs, &c.—None. 11 done by the respective landlords
- 12.—Approximate number of back-to-back houses in district—10
- 13.—Approximate number of cellar dwellings in district—None
- 14.—What number of dwelling-houses for the working classes has your Council decided are required under the recent Housing Act?—250

IV. *Town Planning.*

Has any scheme of Town Planning been put forward during 1919 for your District or any part thereof?—None.

(Signed) R. B. DAVIDSON.

3rd March, 1920.

